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Tiverton  
Rural District Council



**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

For the Year ending  
31st December, 1952



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE  
AUTHORITY

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(a) *Part-time Medical Officer of Health :*

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(b) *Building Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :*

W. P. ROBERTS, M.S.I.A., C.R.SAN.I.

(c) *Sanitary Inspector :*

A. L. SANDERS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.


(d) *Water Engineer :*

D. G. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

(e) *Meat Inspector :*

R. J. HARGREAVES,

M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., M.INST.M.



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TO THE  
TIVERTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

**Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF  
THE AREA.**

**Area:** 114,139 Acres.

**Population,** estimated: 20,680 (R.G.'s Mid-1952  
Estimate).

**Rateable Value:** £81,747 at 1st April, 1952.

**Sum Represented by a Penny Rate:** £347.

**Social Conditions.** Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are, on the whole, good.

**Slaughtering Industries.** Government Slaughterhouse at Tiverton Junction, and C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., also at Tiverton Junction.

### Other Main Industries:

Wiggins, Teape & Co. (1919) Ltd., Devon Valley Paper Mills, Hele ;  
 Reed & Smith, Paper Manufacturers, Silverton Mills, Hele ;  
 Culm Leather Dressing Co., Longbridge, Cullompton ;  
 Fox Bros., Weavers, 37, Higher Street, Cullompton ;  
 Dreven & Brown, Glove Manufacturers, Longbridge, Cullompton ;  
 Sellwood Bros., Tanneries, Exeter Hill, Cullompton ;  
 Reed & Smith, Paper Manufacturers, Higher King's Mill, Cullompton ;  
 John Heathcoat & Co., Net Mending, Victoria Hall, Cullompton ;  
 Fox Bros., Weavers, Uffculme ;  
 Wilts United Dairies Ltd., Milk Factory, Hemyock ;  
 Dulverton Saw Mills, Exebridge ;  
 Bramber Engineering Works, Willand ;  
 Duchess of Devonshire Dairy Co. Ltd., Willand.

### EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births	{ Legitimate	289	148	141	{ Birth Rate per 1000 the population—14·8	
	{ Illegitimate	18	10	8		
Still Births	{ Legitimate	5	5	—	{ Rate per 1000 total births—15·2	
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—		
Corrected Birth Rate		..	..	..	16·1 per 1000	
Deaths	.. ..	219	114	105	{ Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population— 15·8	
Corrected Death Rate		..	..	..	..	13·2
Deaths from diseases & accidents of pregnancy and child-birth					{ from sepsis	.. Nil
					{ from other causes	Nil



## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	26·0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live			births	27·6
Illegitimate infants deaths under one	..	..		Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Cancer	..	..	..	35

## Statistics for England and Wales.

Births per 1,000 of population	..	..	{ Live	15·3
			{ Still	0·35
Deaths „ „ „ „	..	..	..	11·3
Deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births				27·6

## Excessive Mortality during the Year.

Deaths from Cancer in 1949 were 40, in 1950 there were 43 and in 1951 there were 32. In 1952 there were 35 deaths from Cancer and these occurred as follows:—

		Males.	Females.	
Stomach	..	5	1	
Bronchus	..	5	—	
Breast	.. ..	—	2	
Uterus	.. ..	—	2	
Others	.. ..	12	8	
		22	13	= Total of 35.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. **Nursing in the Home.** No change.
2. **Number of Midwives** practising in the Area. The District Nurses, of which there are 16, act in this capacity.
3. **Laboratory Facilities.** Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as before, also at the Pathological Department of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

4. **Legislation in Force.** There has been no major change during the past year with regard to Legislation in Force throughout the Area.
5. **The Tiverton Hospital for Infectious Diseases.** The Tiverton Hospital for Infectious Diseases is now used by the Hospital Board for recovery cases from Tiverton District Hospital and from the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Cases requiring isolation now go to Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter.
6. **General Surgical and Medical Cases.** These are admitted to Tiverton and District Hospital or the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Both Hospitals have considerable waiting lists, more especially in the latter, and consequently accommodation cannot be considered adequate.
7. **Maternity Cases.** The majority are admitted to the Tiverton and District Hospital, admission being controlled by the County Medical Officer. Applications are usually in excess of accommodation.

**Notifiable Diseases** (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1952, giving age incidence.

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Paratyphoid	Dysentery (Sonné)	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Poliomyelitis	Acute Encephalitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
0—1	—	—	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1—3	3	—	18	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—5	4	—	25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	8	—	36	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
10—15	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
25—30	—	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
30—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55- over	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	17	1	95	8	18	2	—	1	—	3	—	1	1



## Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—

### Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken during the year.

### Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. No action was

taken during the year.

## Section B—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supplies.

Public supplies have been satisfactory generally as regards quality throughout the year. Samples have been taken regularly for bacteriological examination. Difficulty is still being experienced at Silverton and Thorverton, where the supply is, at times, not adequate for the demand. Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of land at Stapley for the provision of a new source for the Regional Scheme, which will improve the supply and distribution difficulties now being experienced.

The North Devon Water Board ended delegation to the following Parishes within their area on the 31st March. The public supplies, where existing, in these Parishes are

now administered direct by the North Devon Water Board :  
Bampton, Bickleigh, Cadbury, Cadeleigh, Clayhanger,  
Cruwys Morchard, Loxbeare, Morebath, Oakford, Stood-  
leigh, Templeton and Washfield.

A service reservoir of 10,000 gallons capacity has been installed at Whitnage, which will now give an uninterrupted supply to the higher properties there which previously suffered from shortages during times of peak consumption on the Regional Scheme.

The villages of Butterleigh and Bickleigh, both badly in need of a water scheme, are still without it. Plans have now been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a supply based on a local source.

During the year, the following premises have been connected to main supplies :

Domestic Premises	..	..	133	
Trade Premises (including Farms)			51	(metered supplies)
			—	
Total No. of New Consumers during year			184	
			—	

The following is a statement of the consumers on the Council's Water Scheme throughout the District :

Parishes with a Main Water Supply	Estimated Population	Approx. Population Supplied from Mains	Approx. No. of Dwelling Houses Connected	No. of Dwelling Houses Supplied by Stand-pipes
Bampton	1580	1015	334	30
Bradninch	1785	1350	348	—
Burlescombe	690	580	140	—
Cullompton	3489	3200	800	—
Culmstock	875	755	180	—
Halberton	1310	1200	300	—
Hemyock	1120	920	210	—
Holcombe Rogus	505	350	75	—
Kentisbeare	820	800	185	3
Morebath	410	60	20	10
Oakford	450	60	19	4
Sampford Peverell	735	630	157	—
Silverton	1208	925	221	30
Thorverton	870	600	150	—
Uffculme	1680	1350	345	—
Uplowman	320	100	30	—
Washfield	320	80	25	—
Willand	935	900	223	7
TOTALS :	19,102	14,875	3,762	84

## Sewerage.

Parish.	Details.	Estimated Population.
Bampton.	The sewage works and outfall sewer have been completed during the year and a new sewer has been laid from Brook Street to High Street. Properties previously discharging into stone culverts have now been connected up to the new system.	1580
Bickleigh.	The outfall sewer at Bickleigh has been extended during the year and now runs into a small stream near the main Exeter road.	200
Bradninch.	There are two outfalls, at Hele Road and Pottersfield, near the Manor House. Treatment is by settling tanks and broad irrigation. It will be necessary for the Council to consider the provision of filter beds at Bradninch in order to improve the condition of the effluent.	1785
Burlescombe.	The existing sewers discharge into septic tanks and the effluent runs into irrigation channels. Septic tanks are being provided to serve the new housing estate.	690
Butterleigh.	No sewerage scheme. Mainly pail closets. Now that water is being supplied to Butterleigh it will be necessary for the Council to consider the provision of a small sewerage scheme for this area.	96
Cadbury.	Conservancy.	157
Cadeleigh.	Partly sewerred. Disposal by septic tank and filter bed.	162
Clayhanger.	No sewerage scheme. Mainly pail closets.	136
Clayhidon.	No sewerage system. Drainage is disposed of by septic tanks where water closets have been installed.	483



Parish.	Details.	Estimated Population.
Cruwys Morchard.	Conservancy. Mainly pail closets.	463
Cullompton.	Disposal is by means of settlement tanks and percolating filters. A full-time man is employed to maintain this system. Continuing trouble is being experienced with the Tannery effluent at the sewage works. The lower sewer which runs alongside the Mill Leat is defective and requires renewing. There is no sewer serving the lower part of Station Road, Stoneyford and East Culm. The Council's Consulting Engineers have been asked to carry out a comprehensive survey in the Cullompton area and to prepare a report for the Council of the improvements required.	3489
Culmstock.	The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared a scheme to include the hamlet of Hillmoor, where conditions are very bad.	875
Halberton.	A scheme has been approved by the Ministry and authority has been given for the preparation of the Bills of Quantities. However, repeated applications to the Ministry for a starting date have had no response and the local Member of Parliament has been asked to take the matter up with the Ministry concerned. The special fittings and pipes required for this scheme have now been delivered and are being stored until such time as the Ministry grants a starting date.	1310
Hemyock.	There is a sewerage scheme with an unsatisfactory outfall. A proper disposal plant is required in order to prevent pollution of the River Culm.	1120
Hockworthy.	A small scheme to serve the Staple Cross area will be completed early in 1953.	201

Parish.	Details.	Estimated Population.
Holcombe Rogus.	The village septic tanks continue to be emptied at regular intervals by a cesspool emptier.	505
Huntsham.	Conservancy. Mainly pail closets.	183
Kentisbeare.	There is a very primitive sewerage system with no proper disposal works. A sewerage scheme is required. A scheme to serve 24 Council houses and three private houses is working satisfactorily.	820
Loxbeare.	Conservancy. Pails and septic tanks.	159
Morebath.	The new scheme has now been completed and is working satisfactorily.	410
Oakford.	Sewerage scheme with septic tank and filter.	450
Sampford Peverell.	The scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers is awaiting Ministry approval. A small temporary scheme has been installed to serve 28 houses being built at Boobery.	735
Silverton.	Public sewer with a satisfactory disposal works. A new storm over-flow ditch and two new sludge beds were installed during 1952.	1208
Stoodleigh.	Conservancy. Mainly pails.	300
Templeton.	Conservancy. Mainly pails.	155
Thorverton.	Public sewerage scheme with a disposal works.	870
Uffculme.	Public sewerage scheme, settling tanks and broad irrigation. The western end of the village, including Russet Close, Grantlands and Coldharbour, is not satisfactorily sewered, the effluent passes direct into the mill stream. The Consulting Engineers have prepared a scheme to serve this area. It	1680



Parish.	Details.	Estimated Population.
	is hoped that the Ministry will agree to this scheme being put in hand at an early date, owing to the fact that there will be considerable increase in the amount of sewage discharged into the sewers on account of the erection of a new Secondary Modern School in this Parish.	
Uplowman.	Conservancy. Mainly pails and septic tanks.	320
Washfield.	A small scheme has been installed to serve the village. However, a considerable amount of storm water is getting into the old village sewer. Steps may have to be taken to have this diverted.	320
Willand.	The new sewerage scheme for Willand is still awaiting Ministry approval and a starting date.	935

In addition to the above, treatment plants have been provided for isolated Council estates and, in accordance with Ministry instructions, the settling tanks are emptied at regular intervals by contractors. Arrangements have also been made for the filter beds to be attended to regularly, part-time local labour being employed for this purpose.

### **Shops Acts.**

It was not necessary to take any action during the year under review in connection with the provisions of the Acts relating to Ventilation, Temperature and Sanitary Conveniences.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

No complaints have been received during the year under review.

### **Swimming Baths.**

During the year several visits were made to the Swimming Baths at Waterloo Cross, Uffculme. The water is filtered and chlorinated at regular intervals and samples taken proved to be satisfactory.

## **Scavenging and Refuse Disposal.**

The Council is now operating two refuse lorries and refuse is collected from every one of the 30 parishes in the district. During the year the service has been extended to serve additional hamlets and small groups of houses.

A weekly collection of refuse is in operation in the larger villages and built-up areas in the district and fortnightly collections in the small out-lying villages and hamlets. Arrangements have also been made for the collection of refuse from farms and isolated groups of houses, provided that the refuse can be brought to a central point on a road which can be negotiated by the refuse lorries.

During the year a total of 22,588 miles was covered by the two vehicles in the course of collecting refuse in this rural area and approximately 11,279 cu. yards of refuse were collected and disposed of. Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping at Gaddon Down, Uffculme.

## **Salvage.**

The collection of salvage paper during the year 1952 realised the sum of £245 3s. 9d. This is less than for the previous year as the mill has only been able to take a very limited quantity of paper and there has also been a considerable reduction in the price.

Salvage paper was collected during the normal refuse collections and there was no additional expense either in labour or transport.

## **Summary of Inspections of the Area by Sanitary Inspectors.**

Inspections of Dairies (other than Dairy Farms)	..	12
Milk Samples taken from Dairies (other than Dairy Farms)	.. .. .	Nil
Bakehouse Inspections	.. ..	18
Inspections of Shops and Food Stores	.. ..	29
Inspections of Butchers' and other Shops	.. ..	20
Knacker's Yard Inspections	.. ..	12
Rodent Control Inspections	.. ..	52

Building Bye-law and Town and Country Planning					
Inspections .. .. .	722				
Petroleum Storage Inspections .. .. .	31				
Caravan Inspections .. .. .	31				
Fried Fish Shop Inspections .. .. .	7				
Inspections of Public Conveniences .. .. .	40				
Inspections in connection with Private Water Supplies	43				
Drainage Inspections .. .. .	242				
Inspections of Cafes and Restaurants .. .. .	23				
Cattle Market Inspections .. .. .	4				
Infectious Diseases Inspections .. .. .	31				
Inspections in connection with Ice Cream .. .. .	12				
Refuse Tip Inspections .. .. .	47				
Refuse Complaints Investigated .. .. .	23				
Sewage Works Inspections .. .. .	139				
Smoke Abatement Inspections .. .. .	Nil				
Nuisances and Complaints Investigated .. .. .	114				
Disinfections—Infectious Diseases 18, Verminous 3 .. .. .	21				
Inspections of Schools .. .. .	7				

### Water Sampling.

Water Samples Taken:—

Parish.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Total Taken
Bampton ..	—	1	1
Bickleigh ..	—	1	1
Burlescombe ..	—	3	3
Cullompton ..	—	1	1
Hockworthy ..	2	1	3
Huntsham ..	1	—	1
Sampford Peverell	—	1	1
Washfield ..	1	—	1
Willand ..	1	—	1
TOTALS :	5	8	13



## Caravan, Moveable Dwelling and Camping Sites.

(Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936).

Number of sites licensed during 1952	..	..	2
Total No. of Sites licensed at end of 1952		..	22

Of the 22 sites licensed at the end of the year one was for an occasional caravan site at Waterloo Cross, Uffculme, licensed for a maximum of 10 caravan trailers. The remaining 21 sites were in respect of individual caravan sites occupied by persons awaiting permanent housing accommodation and these were licensed only having regard to the special circumstances.

The sites are licensed for temporary periods varying from three to five years and each site has received planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

## Section C—FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

### 1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

*(Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).*

PREMISES (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories .. .. . (Including Factory Laundries)	18	1 (Informal)	Nil
Workshops .. .. . (Including Workshop Laundries)	39	Nil	Nil
Workplaces . . . . (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	6	Nil	Nil
Total .. .. .	63	1 (Informal)	Nil

### 2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Want of cleanliness—Nil. Remedied—Nil.

Sanitary Conveniences :

(a) Insufficient—3. Remedied—3.

(b) Unsuitable or defective—Nil. Remedied—Nil.

Inadequate ventilation—Nil. Remedied—Nil.

### 3. Outworkers (Section 110).

The number of outworkers employed on homework by industrial firms during the six months preceding August, 1952, was 28; 27 being engaged in the making, etc., of wearing apparel and one engaged on lace and net mending.

### 4. Means of Escape in Case of Fire (Section 34).

One certificate of adequate means of escape in case of fire was granted during the year under review.

### 5. Register of Factories.

At the end of the year under review there were 141 registered Factories, Workshops and Workplaces in the district.

## Section D—TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947, AND BUILDING BYELAWS.

	Deposited	Approved	Rejected
Plans and applications in respect of Buildings and other development .. .. .	269	264	5
Plans and applications under Control of Advertisement Regs.	21	19	2
TOTALS ..	290	283	7

### Section 16, Town & Country Planning Act, 1947—Appeals.

There was one appeal during the year against a decision given by the Council (acting for and on behalf of the local planning authority), under the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947. This appeal was allowed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government as the result of an enquiry.

### Section 28, Town & Country Planning Act, 1947— Tree Preservation Order.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government, during the year under review, confirmed in part a Tree Preservation Order in respect of certain woodlands near Stuckeridge Bridge, Oakford, made by the Council on behalf of the local planning authority.



**Sections 23 and 24, Town & Country Planning Act, 1947—  
Enforcement of Planning Control.**

**Ruthfield Caravan and Camping Site, Silverton.**

Consequent upon the Council's refusal to allow this development to continue under the Town & Country Planning Act, enforcement action was taken by the Council on behalf of the local planning authority in view of the owner's contravention of the Act by permitting the development to remain after the refusal of planning permission. An Enforcement Notice was served in February of the year under review requiring all caravans, chalets, closets and linhays to be removed from the site and the land restored to its original condition.

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**Section E—BUILDING LICENSING (Defence Regulation 56a).**

**1. Licenses granted by the Council in connection with Housing during the year under review:**

(a) For new dwellings (other than new farm-houses) .. .. .	40
(b) For repairs, improvements and conversions, etc., (other than farmhouses) .. .. .	39
Total number of licenses granted by the Council	79

**2. Licenses granted by the Ministry of Works during the year under review:**

(a) For new farmhouses .. .. .	Nil
(b) For new buildings (farm buildings, industrial buildings, etc.) .. .. .	22
(c) For repairs, maintenance, etc., of farm buildings, industrial buildings, etc. .. .. .	53
Total number of licenses granted by the Ministry of Works .. .. .	75

Four additional units of living accommodation were provided by private enterprise during the year as a result of conversion and adaptation of existing buildings under the authority of building licenses. Three licenses were issued by the Council and one licence by the Ministry of Works.

19 new dwellings, licensed under the private enterprise building licensing system, were completed during the year.

23 new private enterprise dwellings were still under construction at the end of the year under review.

## Section F—PROGRESS OF COUNCIL HOUSING SCHEMES.

(a) Number of Council Houses erected and completed during 1952 :

Traditional .. ..	26	
Non-Traditional .. ..	28	
	—	Total 54

(b) Number of Council Houses under construction at end of year under review :

Traditional .. ..	14	
Non-Traditional .. ..	28	
	—	Total 42

(c) Total number of Council Houses erected to date (period 1945—1952) :

Traditional .. ..	250	
Non-Traditional .. ..	78	
	—	Total 328

(d) (i) Sites for Traditional Houses approved for construction but not started at 31st Dec., 1952 :

Nomansland ..	4	houses
Burlescombe ..	8	„
Willand ..	12	„
Bampton ..	8	„
Exebridge ..	6	„
Ashill ..	4	„
Huntsham ..	2	„
Cadbury ..	2	„
Total ..	46	„

- (ii) Sites for Non-Traditional Houses approved for construction but not started on Dec. 31st, 1952 :

Uffculme .. ..	12	houses
Cullompton ..	12	„
Sampford Peverell ..	28	„
Total ..	<u>52</u>	„

### Section G—HOUSING.

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(a) (i) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) .. .. .	34
(ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose	40
(b) (i) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-heading (a) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. .. .	25
(ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose	25
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	6
(d) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading and found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	19

#### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority .. .. .	9
---	---

#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4

- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
  - (a) By owners .. .. . 4
  - (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
  - (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . 7
  - (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
    - (a) By owners .. .. . 5
    - (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
  - (i) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted .. .. . 2
  - (ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. . 4
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. . Nil

### **Rural Housing Survey.**

No action was taken in regard to this Survey during the year under review.

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## **Section H—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.**

### **1. Food and Drugs Acts, 1938—Sections 13 and 14.**

#### **(a) Ice-Cream Premises—**

- (i) Number of premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream during the year .. .. . 3
- (ii) Total number of premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream at the end of 1952 .. .. . 50



Of the total number of premises registered, five were registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and the remaining 45 were registered for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream only.

(b) **Bakeries—**

Registration of 11 bakeries under the Act was carried out during the year.

(c) **Fried Fish Premises—**

Registration of four fried fish premises under the Act was carried out during the year.

(d) **Egg-Packing Premises—**

Registration of six egg-packing premises was carried out during the year.

In February of the year under review a detailed survey of six egg-packing stations in the district was carried out at the request of the Ministry of Food, Hygiene Division, who were then conducting a national enquiry into the hygienic merits of the methods used in producing liquid egg at egg-packing stations licensed by the Ministry of Food.

**2. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 57—Slaughterhouses.**

Eight annual licenses were granted in respect of slaughterhouses during the year and one knacker's yard licence was granted.

**3. Meat Inspection.**

Two slaughterhouses have again been in use during the year, i.e., the Government Slaughterhouse and Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd.

The work of Meat Inspection has received special attention. Ante-Mortem, in addition to Post-Mortem examination, has been undertaken.



There has been a considerable increase in the number of pigs dealt with, particularly at Messrs. C. & T Harris's premises, where an additional 6,000 pigs have been slaughtered during the year.

There have also been 1,601 casualty-slaughtered animals (compared with 1,391 in 1951), of which 322 whole carcasses were totally rejected.

Pregnancy-toxæmia has again been in evidence in in-lamb ewes and there have been six cases of localised *Cysticercus Bovis* during the year.

Liver-fluke and bacterial Cirrhosis have again been responsible for the rejection of a very large number of livers—mainly in cattle and sheep.

There have been two outbreaks of bovine Foot and Mouth Disease during the year in the Plymtree area, as a consequence of which a large number of contact and movement-restricted animals were dealt with at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse and liaison was maintained with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

In the early part of the year formal complaints were made to the Ministry of Food and the Slaughtering Contractors at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse concerning the unsatisfactory standard of hygiene and cleanliness maintained at the slaughtering premises. Subsequently very considerable improvement has been apparent and this improvement has been sustained throughout the year, due to the appointment of a conscientious and reliable hygiene supervisor.

The Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter has continued to carry out microscopic examination of specimens and arrangements have also been made with the Veterinary Laboratory at Starcross for the examination of complex histological specimens.

Relationship and liaison with the Ministry of Food, the Wholesale Meat Supply Association, the Slaughtering Contractors and the farming community have remained excellent.

**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

	Cattle (including 1149 Cows)	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. .. .	3036	3346	12151	18599
Number inspected .. ..	3036	3346	12151	18599
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.—				
Whole carcasses condemned ..	78	135	227	97
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	1431	19	1143	599
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	47.1%	0.6%	9.4%	3.2%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY —				
Whole carcasses condemned ..	52	5	—	76
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	482	5	1	2248
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B. ..	15.9%	0.15%	0.008%	12%

The total weight of meat and offal condemned during the year was 88 tons, 11 cwts., 1 qr., 15 lbs.

The total number of animals inspected during the year was 37,132.

**4. Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**

No action has been taken during the year under the Act. The Electro-leather is used for the stunning of sheep and pigs and the Cash Captive Bolt for bullocks and calves.

During the year five licenses to slaughter animals were renewed, each for a period of three years.

**5. Adulteration.**

No action was taken under the Food and Drugs Act as this work is performed by the County Council.

## **6. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

The County Medical Department and Public Health Laboratories continue to carry out this work.

## **7. Food Bye-Laws and Clean Food Campaigns.**

Careful supervision and inspection of restaurants, cafes and food preparation premises has continued during the year under review.

Copies of the Council's Food Bye-Laws were distributed in the early part of the year to all food premises, food shops, restaurants, etc., in the district.

No formal action under the Food Bye-Laws has been necessary during the year.

## **8. Milk Supplies—Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

Inspection of dairies (other than dairy farms), continued during the year and several improvements were effected.

In May, 1952, the Authority was obliged to take statutory action, as a result of a biological milk test, in connection with a case of tuberculin infected milk.

During the year under review :

One annual Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "T.T." ;

One annual Supplementary Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "T.T." ; and

Two annual Supplementary Dealer's Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised," were granted.

Eight annual Dealer's Licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation "T.T." ;

One annual Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ;

One annual Supplementary Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised" ;

and

One annual Supplementary Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "T.T.," were renewed during the year.



Two premises were registered for use as dairies during the year, making a total of nine premises registered as dairies (not being dairy farms) in the district at the end of 1952, since one dairy registration has been cancelled and one dairy has become a dairy farm coming under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Two Milk Distributors were registered during the year, making a total of four Milk Distributors registered in the district at the end of 1952.

Although the responsibility for the supervision of cowshippens is not now that of local authorities, it is worthy of note that substantial progress continued during the year in the improvement of existing, and construction of new, cowshippens. The Ministry of Works continued to give special consideration to applications for building licenses for this type of work and all plans relating to cowshippens deposited with the Council under the building bye-laws continued to be referred to the County Milk Production Officer for observations and recommendations from a milk production standpoint, thereby ensuring that the buildings ultimately conform to the standard required by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

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#### **THE RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.**

There were no premises to which the Act applies functioning in the district during 1952 and no action was, therefore, necessary under the Act.

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#### **RODENT CONTROL.**

During the year under review the Council commenced its own Rodent Control Scheme with its own newly-appointed Operator. Altogether 169 treatments were carried out and 968 inspections were made.

**Table of Properties dealt with during the year:**

	Local Author- ity	Dwell- ing Houses	Agri- culture	Business
Inspections carried out as a result of—(a) notification	—	15	48	29
(b) otherwise	9	30	573	59
Number of premises found to be infested—(a) Major ..	3	3	75	16
(b) Minor ..	5	17	20	25
Number of infested premis- es which were treated ..	8	20	63	41
Number of notices served under Section 4—				
(a) Treatment ..	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural works	—	—	—	—

(The foregoing table does not include subsequent inspections and treatments at each property which may have been made during the year, but merely quotes the number of properties involved in the year's work).

Two "block" control schemes were carried out during the year.

### **PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.**

Number of storage licenses renewed for 1952 ..	156
Number of new licenses granted during 1952 ..	4
Total number of storage premises licensed at the end of 1952 .. .. .	160

One licence authorising the storage of carbide of calcium was renewed during the year.

### **THE STORES FOR EXPLOSIVES ORDER, 1951, AND THE MAGAZINES FOR EXPLOSIVES ORDER, 1951.**

The above Orders came into force on 1st July, 1952, and the general effect of the Orders is to revise the safety distances which must be observed in respect of explosives stores licensed by local authorities.



All licenses granted after 1st July, 1952, were to be issued in conformity with the new Orders.

No stores were licensed by the Council during the period 1st July—31st December, 1952, and therefore the new regulations concerning the revised safety distances were not enforced in respect of stores in this district during the period under review.

Eight stores (all at local quarrying premises), were licensed by the Council during the year, these stores having been licensed under the Regulations which were in force prior to the date of operation of the new Orders (i.e., 1st July, 1952).

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### **FLOOD RELIEF CLAIMS.**

As a result of the North Devon Floods, which occurred in August, 1952, 53 inspections were made in connection with Flood Relief Claims in the district.

I am indebted to the Officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. NICHOLSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*





